# Focus on Finance

5 July 2023

Event for analysts



JOHN LEWIS

WAITROSE

# **TODAY'S PRESENTERS**

## **BÉRANGÈRE MICHEL**

Executive Director, Finance Member of Partnership Board and Executive Team

#### **ANDY MOUNSEY**

Group Finance Director Leads the Finance team at JLP

#### LYNN LOCHHEAD

Head of Treasury Leads on Treasury, Pension and Insurance at JLP









# Purpose and the Partnership Plan

Bérangère Michel



JOHN LEWIS WAITROSE

#### THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL MEANS WE ACT DIFFERENTLY TO OTHER BUSINESSES.

## Working in Partnership for a Happier World







Happier People

Our happier business starts with happier Partners, enjoying worthwhile and satisfying work in a supportive environment we all help to create.

Happier Business

We build happier businesses that are honest, fair and free to think and act for the long term. We aim to make sufficient profit to retain our financial independence, invest in our Partners and pursue our Purpose.

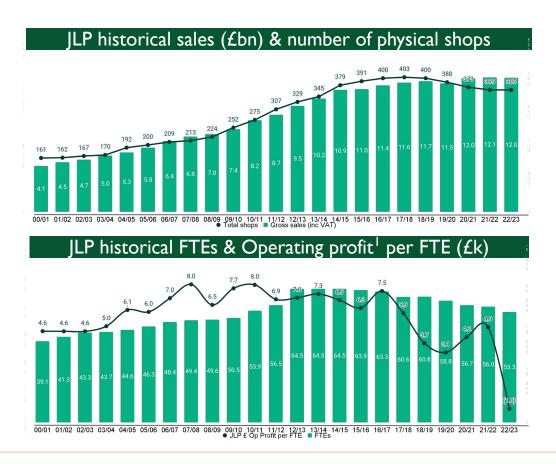
#### Happier World

We champion the role our Partnership can play in advancing the happiness of the communities we work with and the wellbeing of society.



#### RAPID EXPANSION FROM 2000 - STILL RECOVERING AMIDST ECONOMIC SHOCKS

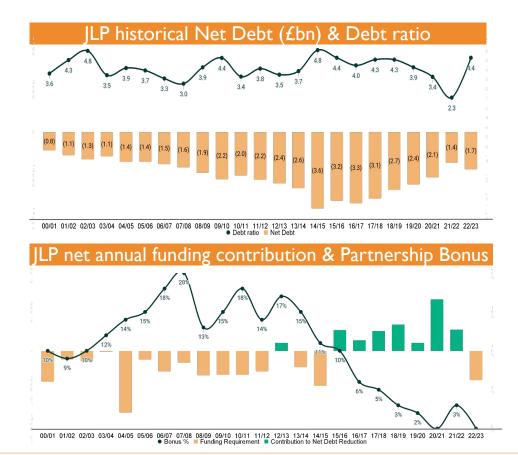
- Period of rapid expansion for the Partnership, particularly between 2000 and 2015
- Partner numbers (FTEs) grew by c40,000 to c65,000
- John Lewis almost doubled stores from 25 to 43 (and to 50 at its peak)
- Waitrose went from 126 to 336 branches
- As retail became more challenging, profits came under more pressure





#### RAPID EXPANSION FROM 2000 - STILL RECOVERING AMIDST ECONOMIC SHOCKS

- Between 2000 to 2015 net debt rose from just under £1bn to £3.6bn
- The Partnership's debt ratio widened from 3.6 to 4.8 times
- From 2015 the Partnership focus shifted to improving the balance sheet
- The Partnership Bonus reduced to an average annual rate of 5%





# OUR FINANCIAL POSITION IMPROVED BUT WE STILL NEED TO TRANSFORM



After stablising our financial position, we embarked on a strategy to transform and sustainably grow the business





#### CLEAR STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT PLAN TO FUEL GROWTH

#### THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

- WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR A HAPPIER WORLD -

#### RETAIL CUSTOMERS LOVE

Customers shopping the way they want with expert advice, brilliantly edited choices and truly memorable experiences

#### PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROWTH

Accelerated growth by combining our unique strengths with the capabilities of others

#### INSPIRATIONAL NEW SERVICES

Trusted new propositions that allow us to play a bigger role in customers' lives

#### LEAN, SIMPLE, FAST

A lower cost, far simpler business that creates more pace and freedom for Partners and more cash for growth

#### A THRIVING PARTNERSHIP, LOVED BY PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS

#### **2023 PRIORITIES**



Get margins up



Get costs down



Focus on customers





#### OUR NO. I PRIORITY IS BEING A BRILLIANT RETAILER FOR CUSTOMERS





We are investing in John Lewis and Waitrose with a focus on what our customers want and expect from us: quality, service, value and sustainability.



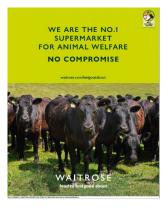


## WAITROSE - FOOD TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT



Brilliant customer service

Excellent customer service led by our Partners. Won more Grocer 33 service awards this year than rivals.



**Quality and taste** 

Maintaining the highest standards in quality and taste. No. I supermarket for animal welfare. Fully committed to fresh food counters.



Value with values

investment. Lower prices for everyday products, without compromising standards.

Reaching more customers through physical and digital expansion



THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

# JOHN LEWIS - FOR ALL LIFE'S MOMENTS



Customer service excellence

'Always at your service' delivered by our Partners.

Excellence across all our channels - in store and online - through new concepts and innovation.



Design & style

Style & design focused.

Combining quality own-brand with exciting new brands, many new and exclusive to John Lewis.



Category Specialism

Curating quality, beautiful products with exceptional services.

Delivered through excellence in all categories.

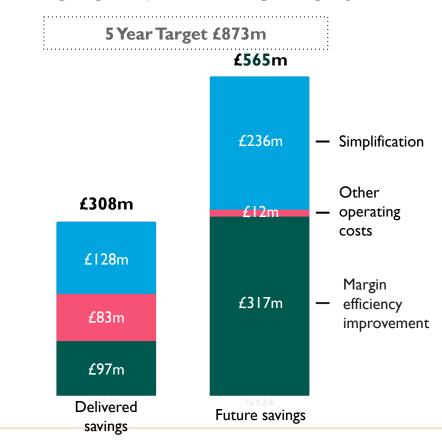
Expanding our reach through more physical and digital customer touch points





## INVESTING IN BRANDS BY MAKING ACHIEVABLE EFFICIENCIES

- Efficiencies to invest in brands are clear and achievable
- Achieved £300m Partnership Plan efficiency target over first two years
- **Savings** through simplifying structures in shop leadership and our offices, more data-led buying, property and procurement savings, and general productivity improvements
- **Going further and faster**, increasing our target by ~ £600m to ~£900m, giving us more head room for growth
- Clear pathway towards the additional ~£600m: buying, ranging and availability improvements a key driver; further opportunities to simplify how we operate and improve productivity







## PROGRAMMES DELIVERING RESULTS ALREADY



Delivering better buying in 'costs of goods for sale' and 'goods not for resale' programmes



Simplifying processes and investing in technology



Smoothing product returns process to ensure lower cost, higher recovery and faster return to sale



## LONG-TERM DIVERSIFICATION BUILDING ON RETAIL STRENGTHS

#### **BUILDING RENTAL HOMES**



Using our property assets and service credentials to bring high standards and trust to rental property. Improves balance sheet and creates long-term revenue stream using external funding from abrdn.

#### **GROWING FINANCIAL SERVICES**



John Lewis financial services operated the Partnership credit card for 20 years. Now creating new products where trust matter, such as pet insurance, credit and investments. Working with partners, not becoming a bank.



## THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

#### SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES DESPITE HEADWINDS

DIFFERENT PRICE POINTS TO MATCH DIFFERENT BUDGETS

RIGHT RETAIL EXPERIENCE IN THE RIGHT AREAS OF OUR BUSINESS

MANAGING OUR FINANCES PRUDENTLY

INFLATION IS AFFECTING CUSTOMER BEHAVIOUR AND CONFIDENCE

PARTNERS SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND ARE MOTIVATED TO MOVE QUICKER

MUCH LOVED BRANDS REMAIN STRONG

**INVESTMENT IS RETURNING** 

COST OF LIVING CRISIS HITTING OUR PARTNERS SO PRIORITY IS TO IMPROVE PAY (BEFORE BONUS)





# Strong Financial Foundations **Andy Mounsey**



JOHN LEWIS WAITROSE

## STRONG FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS

TRANSFORMING FROM A STRONG FINANCIAL FOOTING

**DEBT POSITION AT HISTORIC LOWS** 

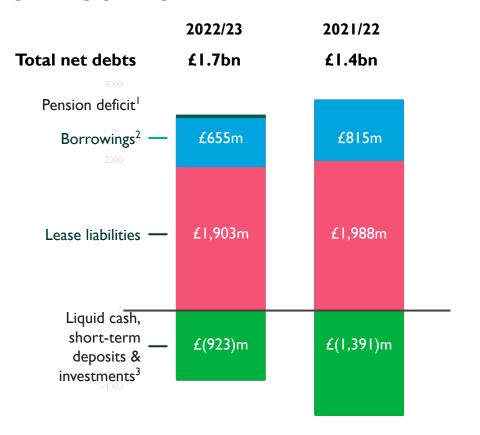
PARTNERSHIP MODEL MEANS WE MANAGE LIQUIDITY PRUDENTLY

CONTINUING TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT FUNDING



#### TRANSFORMING FROM A STRONG FINANCIAL FOOTING

- Liquidity strong £1.5bn (cash and credit facility)<sup>3</sup>
  - £348m of cash generated from operations
  - £515m of investment to deliver Partnership Plan
  - £150m of term loans repaid
  - £73m investment in Partners
  - £77m other (tax and working capital)
- Total net debt at £1.7bn £0.3bn higher than last year but still at historic lows

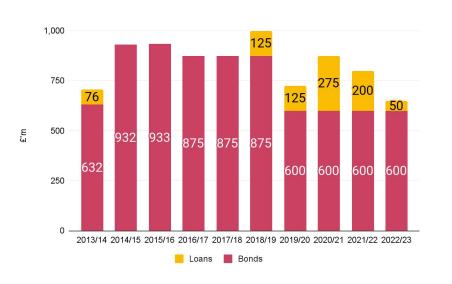




#### DEBT POSITION AT HISTORIC LOWS

#### **EXTERNAL DEBT AT HISTORIC LOWS**

# DEBT RATIO HAS INCREASED EXPECTED TO IMPROVE IN 2023/24 AND ONWARDS



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Debt Ratio	4.3x	3.9x	3.4x	2.3×	4.4x

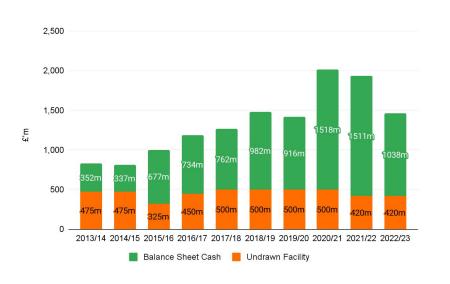
- Debt ratio has increased due to a reduction in adjusted cash flows throughout 2022
- Expect to improve in 2023/24

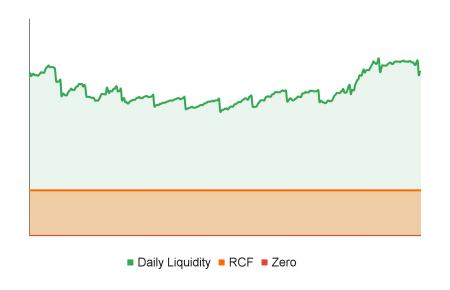


# PARTNERSHIP MODEL MEANS WE MANAGE LIQUIDITY PRUDENTLY

DESPITE HEADWINDS, 22/23 LIQUIDITY REMAINED VERY STRONG

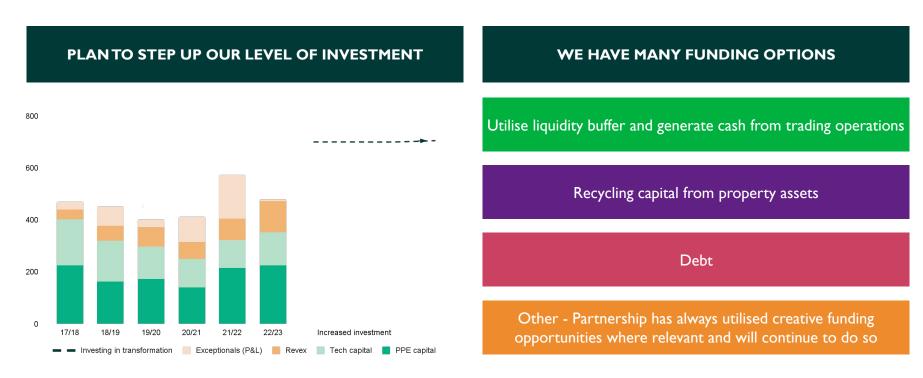
MANAGE CASH VERY CAREFULLY, MAINTAINING HEALTHY
CASH BALANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR







#### CONTINUING TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT FUNDING OPTIONS



Any future funding will be consistent with employee-ownership



# Focus on Pensions

Lynn Lochhead



JOHN LEWIS

WAITROSE

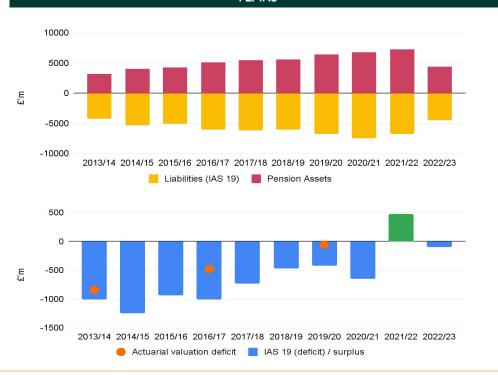
# WHICH PENSION VALUATION METHOD?

Technical Provisions actuarial valuation	IAS19 accounting valuation		
<ul> <li>A prudent measure of liabilities reflecting the amount needed to pay members' benefits in full as they retire</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Used to calculate pension liabilities for accounting reporting purposes</li> </ul>		
Used to determine any cash contributions that might need to be made to the Scheme	<ul> <li>Discount rate used to value liabilities is prescribed by accounting standards, set with reference to high quality corporate bonds (AA rated)</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Discount rate used to value liabilities based on assumptions set by the Trustees and agreed by the employer, taking into account the asset investment strategy and strength of the employer</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Does not take account of scheme investment strategy and has usually produced higher liability valuations</li> <li>Useful for comparing pension schemes across different</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Measured formally at least every 3 years ('triennial valuation'), the valuation process can take over a year to conclude</li> </ul>	businesses, not useful for assessing scheme funding position  - Measured at half year and full year		



#### THE PARTNERSHIP PENSION SCHEME IS HEALTHY & WELL FUNDED

# IAS 19 ACCOUNTING POSITION + ACTUARIAL POSITION OVER THE YEARS



#### **ACTIONS TAKEN TO DE-RISK PENSION SCHEME**

- Interest rate & inflation hedging protects the funding position
- Made £600m of contributions in recent years. Currently £10m p.a.
- Reduced discretionary pension increases in 2017 and closed the scheme in 2020, limiting the growth of pension liabilities

The Scheme is well funded and the expected timeframe to Low Dependency is materially reduced compared with the 2019 actuarial valuation



# **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

ı	Partnership model means we act differently to other retailers
2	We have strong financial foundations with a clear strategy and investment plan to fuel growth
3	Our top priority is being a brilliant retailer for our customers
4	We're investing in our brands by making achievable efficiencies
5	Long term diversification is building on retail strengths

